

Best Affordable Suburbs 2009

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6. South Weber, Utah

Nearest major city: Salt Lake City

Population: 5,676

Median household income: \$89,355

Median home price: \$210,000

Unemployment rate: 2.6%

Violent crime index: 57

South Weber, known for its occasional Big Foot sightings, is a rural area in Davis County, known as "The Garden Spot of Utah" because of its rich agricultural land. About 58% of residents are married with children. Average commutes are 17 minutes.

7. Cornelius, North Carolina

Nearest major city: Charlotte

Population: 17,290

Median household income: \$87,016

Median home price: \$206,000

Unemployment rate: 3.3%

Violent crime index: 48

The fast-growing bedroom community, 30 miles north of Charlotte, has some beautiful homes on Lake Norman, North Carolina's largest lake. About 31% of residents are married with children. The average commute is 31 minutes.

8. West Des Moines, Iowa

Nearest major city: Des Moines

Population: 52,138

Median household income: \$66,306

Median home price: \$173,000

Unemployment rate: 3%

Violent crime index: 21

West Des Moines, the largest suburb of Des Moines, is covered with lakes, parks and trails. The highly-educated population is growing quickly and many of the residents work in the financial industry. About 38% of residents are married with children. Average commutes are 16 minutes.

9. Pataskala, Ohio

Nearest major city: Columbus

Population: 11,919

Median household income: \$65,274

Median home price: \$142,314

Unemployment rate: 5.2%

Violent crime index: 18

Pataskala, a suburb 20 miles east of Columbus, is one of a couple municipalities in the state that operates without an income tax. The city has three downtowns and a number of sites designated for new development. About 37% of residents are married with children. Average commutes are 27 minutes.

10. Fort Mill, South Carolina

Nearest major city: Charlotte, N.C.

Population: 9,943

Median household income: \$57,648

Median home price: N/A

Unemployment rate: 5.6%

Violent crime index: 93

Fort Mill, located just south of the North Carolina border and 18 miles from Charlotte, is home to the Charlotte Knights baseball stadium. About 36% of residents are married with children. Average commutes are 22 minutes.

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